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(54) **Steam turbine inspecting method**

(57) The present invention provides a method of inspecting a target component part (e.g., valve casing) of an apparatus (e.g., steam control valve) included in a steam turbine system. When a time period in a range of 24 to 100 hours passes from the shutting-down of the turbine system, or before a temperature of an atmosphere surrounding the component part is lowered to 100°C, the width of the opening of the crack formed in the component part or a clearance relating to the component part is measured without disassembling the target component part and an enclosing member (e.g., valve casing) from the apparatus. As the measurement is performed when a thermal stress is induced in the component parts or when the temperature distribution is wide, the risk level of the crack or the clearance is determined accurately.

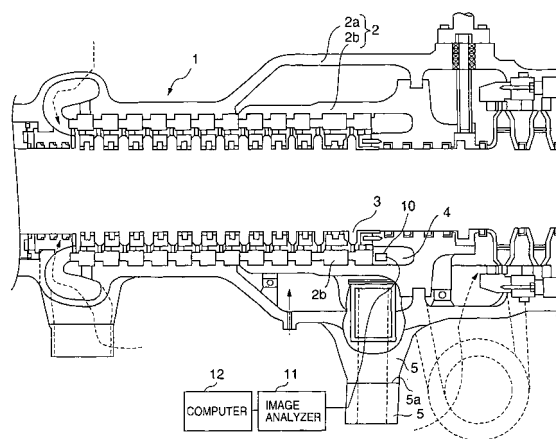


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 03 02 2981

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 10 February 2006	Examiner Angelucci, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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